OCT 29 1945
DEPT. OF LABOR

Win Cannery Election;

FTA To Press For Demands At Once

LIBRARY
NOV 9 - 1945
DEPT. OF LABOR

By Dolph Winebrenner, Cannery Drive Publicity Director

San Francisco, Oct. 22—FTA has won the recent industry-wide NRLB election in the Northern California cannery industry and will press its wage and other demands immediately, General Pres. Donald Henderson announced.

Official tally sheets of the ballots counted Oct. 22 showed 6,067 votes for FTA, 4,701 votes for the AFL California Cannery Council (Teamsters), 110 for independent unions, and 90 for no union, in elections at the 60 canneries of the California Processors and Growers, Inc.

With 1,291 challenged votes to be counted, FTA fell 63 votes short of a clear majority.

"There is no doubt whatever that FTA will get far more than the necessary 63 votes out of the 1,291 challenged ballots to give us a clear majority," Henderson declared.

Union Handshake marked the successful conclusion of the voting of Northern California cannery workers who, for the first time, were given the opportunity to vote in an NLRB election to determine their bargaining agent. Here FTA President Donald Henderson (right) congratulates Fred Less (center), former president of the AFL State Cannery Council, who, with his local in Sunnyvale, voted to join FTA. Registering approval is Jack Stallings (left) the local's president.

The tally also showed that FTA won bargaining rights in 6 of 12 independent canneries, with two elections to be decided by a count of challenged votes. FTA won at the Basic Vegetable Products Co. at Vacaville by 169 to 115 for the AFL; at Pacific Grape Products, Modesto, by 193 to 4 for the AFL; at Stanislaus Canning Co., Modesto, by 71 to 9; at Fruitvale Canning Co., Oakland, by 178 to 56; at Sardik Food Products Corp., Riverbank, by 21 to 10, and at Califruit Canning at Manteca by 77 to 22.

CALL CONFERENCE

"A conference of all delegates from every Northern California cannery will be held this coming Sunday to further plans for pressing the cannery workers' demands for immediate wage increases, time and a half for overtime and immediate settlement of grievances," Henderson said.

"The victory of FTA over the attempt of the AFL Teamsters Union to take over cannery workers is a victory for the cannery workers themselves, who have never before had a chance to choose their own union," Henderson added. "They have chosen democratic, industrial trade unionism as the certain way to maintain their living standards.

WILL AID PROSPERITY

"The victory of FTA also means that the agricultural regions of the State will be assured of a strong Union which will be able to maintain the purchasing power of 60,000 workers needed to build a prosperous California.

"FTA will take immediate steps to implement the cannery workers' demands and to assure them a better contract for the 1946 season," Henderson concluded.

FTA News

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. V, No. 18 Nov. 1, 1945 Price 5 Cents

FTA Urges 65c Minimum Wage, Total Coverage

Washington, D. C.—Appearing before the Senate Committee on Labor and Education on Oct. 19, International Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane urged the passage of the Pepper Bill (S 1349) for a 65c minimum wage. "The needs of substandard wage workers, the present economic situation and the welfare of the country as a whole require passage of S 1349," Lane told Committee members.

Lane stressed the need for the provisions of the Pepper Bill which provide overtime pay after 40 hours per week for agricultural processing workers. He urged that the Bill be further amended to provide overtime after 40 hours during the 14 week seasonal exemption period.

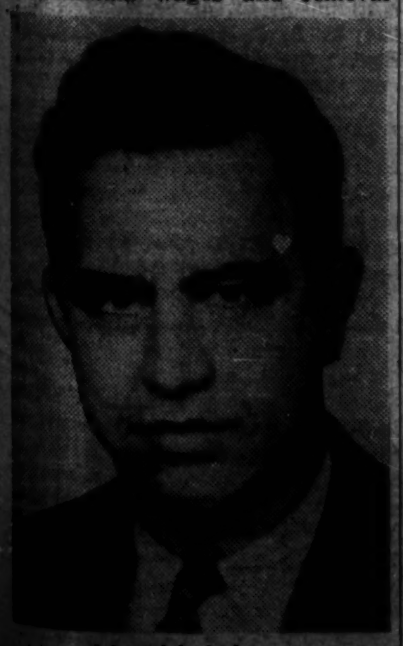
Speaking of the million workers employed in canneries, fruit and vegetable packing houses, tobacco factories, cotton compresses and warehouses, cottonseed oil mills and similar types of establishments, Lane said:

Prevent Depression

"More than 400,000 workers in these industries now are paid less than 65c an hour. Large numbers are not paid time and a half after 40 hours, as the result of exemptions in the present Fair Labor Standards Act . . .

"Passage of the Pepper Bill will, of course, directly benefit hundreds of thousands of food and fiber processing workers by guaranteeing them a bare $26 a week for a 40-hour week and by bringing them closer to the minimum American standard of time and a half after 40 hours a week. That is good.

"But the interest of the entire nation, also, is at stake. Raising of minimum wages and removal of exemptions is urgent in order to help prevent collapse of buying power, unemployment, decreasing farm and factory production, and all the other evils of depression."



Harold J. Lane

Industrial Workers

Large groups of agricultural processing workers are exempt from eithe the minimum wage or maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, or from both provisions, Lane told the Senators, under the pretext that they are not "industrial" workers.

"The operations they perform are industrial in character, and they are subject to the same working conditions and hazards as other industrial workers who are covered by the minimum wage and hour benefits," Lane said. He showed the Senators a picture of a typical citrus fruit packinghouse in Texas—proof that the work performed is factory work.

"We know from our own experience that these exemptions are unnecessary," he said, "because our Union has contracts with companies in the exempted industries which call for the minimum wage of 65c or better, and a minimum of time and a half after 40 hours of work a week or better. These include small companies, as well as large, and some highly seasonal operation. That these firms can observe the minimum wage and maximum hours standards of the Act and prosper shows that the special exemptions are not justified."

Farmers Benefit

Asserting that "there has been much heat and little light" in the discussion of the 65c minimum and farmers, Lane said:

"The farmer benefits directly and substantially from any increase in the income of low-paid workers. As the Secretary of Agriculture has pointed out, for each increase of $1 billion in the annual earnings of low-income families, there will be a corresponding increase in food expenditures of at least $2 hundred million, as well as increased purchases of cotton and tobacco.

"As income rises, low-paid families buy a greater variety of foods such as fruits and vegetables, increasing the demand for these products and adding directly to the farmer's market."

Have You Written?

FTA's witnesses have done their part in Washington to press for passage of the 65c Minimum Wage bills.

Much more has to be done!

Write letters to your Congressman and Senators today, urging them to vote for the Pepper Bill (S 1349) and the Hook Bill (HR 3914).

In This Issue

	Page
Threats to 65c Bills	2
Food Processing News	3
Tobacco News	4
The People Go to Washington	5
Grain Processing News	6
Across-the-Ocean Letters	7
Union Men in Uniform	8

CIO Is On The Radio

The CIO is taking its case for basic wage increases to the people of the nation in a series of four country-wide broadcasts over 180 American Broadcasting Co. stations.

Pres. Philip Murray and other notables will speak between 10 and 10:15 p.m. EST on Monday, November 12, and Monday, November 26. The first two programs were already broadcast on October 15 and 29.

In order to get the widest audience possible, FTA locals should: call special meetings to hear programs; organize community and neighborhood listening parties; and contact local ABC stations to make certain that the programs are carried and announced in the papers.

CIO Asks Repeal of Smith-Connally Act

Washington, D.C. — A request that the "completely discredited" Smith-Connally act be immediately repealed was lodged Oct. 22 by CIO Pres. Philip Murray. Pointing to the opposition of the CIO and Pres. Roosevelt to enactment of the measure, Murray said the correctness of the position has been thoroughly proven.

"It is, and has been, a useless, mischievous and dangerous piece of legislation—and should be repealed." The CIC President said. Murray further added that "no similar piece of legislation, whether it be the Ball-Burton-Hatch bill or anything like it, should take the place of the Smith-Connally act.

Legislate for Prosperity

"In place of seeking new curbs upon the rights of workers, the Congress and the Administration should turn their attention to enacting a legislative program designed to achieve full employment at decent wages, fair and equitable taxes, protection against economic disaster for all people and protection of the rights of all groups." Murray said this program could be found in Pres Truman's message of Sept. 6.

"WE MUST BE CAREFUL . . ."

FROM WASHINGTON

Threats To The 65c Bills

BY JESSICA RHINE, Acting Washington Representative

AS THE Senate Labor Subcommittee hearings on the Pepper Bill (S 1349) close and House Committee hearings begin on the Hook Bill (HR 3914), two dangers face us: that the amount of the minimum will be whittled down and that extension of coverage will be sabotaged.

A clear example of a tendency to compromise is the attitude of Rep. Mary Norton (D., N.J.), who introduced a bill of her own which extends the minimum to 65c but provides no increase to 75c in two years, and which completely omits the question of coverage. Since Mrs. Norton introduced this bill after seeing the President, there is great suspicion that the White House may follow the same pattern on this issue as it has in the Unemployment Compensation and Full Employment Bill fights—retreating and compromising until nothing is left of the original idea.

Our first job is to explain and clarify the provisions of the two bills so that everyone will recognize the importance of both the 65c-75c figure and of coverage.

We must point out that 65c an hour, 40 hours a week, amounts to only $26. How many new cars, how many additional cans of fruits and vegetables, how many bushels of farm produce can be purchased by families who don't even make that much?

And when Senator Johnston of South Carolina says he is opposed to extending coverage to agricultural processing workers because Southern orchard owners can't pay so much to fruit pickers, we must explain that this bill has nothing to do with agricultural workers on farms. (Although we believe such workers should be covered.)

Affects Factory Workers

This bill will extend wage and hour protection and give all-year-round over-time to people in certain industries who are factory workers, just as much as are auto workers. These people are exempted now because high-pressure lobbyists persuaded Congress originally to consider them similar to farm workers.

The canneries, packingsheds, cottonseed oil plants and other concerns which employ these people are just as capable as any other industrial concern of paying decent wages and observing the principle of time and a half after 40 hours. Only by extending coverage to these and many other workers will the fundamental purpose of the Pepper and Hook bills be fulfilled; to raise the purchasing power of a substantial number of American families in order to assure greater consumption of goods.

Our voice alone is not enough, of course. The Congress which has up to this point been oblivious to the people's need for jobless aid and full employment will respond only to a mass movement of nationwide significance. That is our second task.

The activities of the National Consumer's League in mobilizing "non-labor" support for the 65c Minimum bills must be aided and supplemented by the activities of FTA and other local unions. We suggest action along the following lines:

ACTION!

- Communications from business, professional, educational, church, civic and farm groups and individuals—to the Senate and House Labor Committees, their own Senators and Representatives. Also ask these groups to contact the National Consumer's League, 348 Engineers Building, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Forums, radio broadcasts, etc., getting non-labor as well as labor speakers to explain the importance of the bill to the whole community.
- Speakers to explain the bill at meetings of other organizations, urge more letters to Congress.
- Distribution of leaflets and literature—to your own membership, to other organizations, door-to-door. The FTA Publicity Dept. has prepared a leaflet, available on request, calling for a letter-writing campaign on the bill. "Let Our People Live", a CIO PAC pamphlet, is available. Write to 205 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y., for it.

Let us have any other ideas you may develop to pass on to others.

Tell It To Congress

THE Tri-State Regional Conference voted to get 300 letters a week to Congress on the 65c Minimum Wage and other bills. This is a good start. Other locals should follow suit. And here's what to write about this week:

65c Minimum Wage and Coverage (S. 1349 and HR 3914)

Hearings are on now before the Senate and House Labor Committees. Industry is mobilized against it, and Congressmen are all talking compromise.

ACTION: Mobilize your local and your community to convince Congress that higher wages and extended coverage are necessary for a healthy, prosperous economy. Emphasize that provisions of present bills must be strengthened, not weakened.

Hobbs Bill (HR 32)

Would classify picketing and other union activities as "racketeering." Rules Committee is now considering it and may call a hearing soon.

ACTION: Tell your Congressmen to appear before the Rules Committee in opposition to this measure. If the bill gets to the floor, he must vote and speak against it.

Anti-Poll Tax Bill (HR 7)

To help rid the country of Bilbo, Rankin and other Southern reactionaries, this bill must be passed with no monkeying around with a Constitutional Amendment as proposed in the O'Mahoney Amendment. May be brought before the Senate this week.

ACTION: Wire Senator Barkley to be sure that HR 7 is on the calendar before the Constitutional Amendment. Urge your Senators to support HR 7 and to vote for cloture so that the poll-taxers cannot filibuster the bill to death.

65c

HENRY A. WALLACE, Secretary of Commerce, has taken a forthright stand in support of the 65c minimum wage bills. These amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act, he told the House Labor Committee on Oct. 16, are essential "to bring it up to date in the light of tremendous changes that have occurred in the economic scene in the past several years."

"Our minimum wage policy must be considered in relation to the over-riding objective of full production and full employment," he said. "This country is capable of producing half again as much as our national output in the best pre-war years. Cheap labor tends to encourage the inefficient use of that labor."

* * *

PRES. IRA MOSHER, of the National Association of Manufacturers, shed crocodile tears for Big Business in his testimony before the Senate Labor Subcommittee.

The proposed 65c minimum wage, he threatened, would cut profits or else raise prices, and since business is operating on such narrow profit margins these days, "most of the additional wage load must be added to prices."

* * *

CIO PRESIDENT PHILIP MURRAY declared, in a statement read before the House Labor Committee by Secy.-Treas. David McDonald of the United Steelworkers (CIO) that enactment of the 65c minimum bills would enable "the people in the low income groups to help all of us, by helping them to buy the things that all of us raise and manufacture.

"This in turn helps those who are now in the more nearly comfortable income brackets to stay there—or to climb up a little."

* * *

THE NATIONAL GRANGE, which like the American Farm Bureau Federation represents chiefly the interests of the big corporate farmers, has come out against raising the minimum wage to 65c.

Legislative Counsel Fred Bailey told the House Labor Committee that raising the minimum wage would lower farm income. The intent of the bills, he said, would "penalize the efficient and industrious" workers "and reward the inefficient and lazy.

* * *

AFL SPOKESMEN at Congressional hearings asserted that raising the minimum wage would cause no conflict between farmers and workers. "Increased wages benefit the farmer by increasing the market for farm products," David Kaplan, chief economist of the AFL Teamsters, said.

* * *

LOW WAGE INDUSTRY spokesmen played on the heartstrings of Senators by claiming that a 65c minimum wage would put them out of business, and that payment of time and a half for overtime would simply kill them.

Among the industry groups who sent representatives to weep for them, were the National Cotton Compressing & Cotton Warehouse Assn.; the Grain & Feed Dealers National Assn. of St. Louis, Mo.; the U. S. Independent Telephone Assn.; the American Hotel Assn.; and the Cotton-Textile Institute.

* * *

THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE for Human Welfare joined labor in the fight for the 65c minimum by telling Senators that it would do "much to solve the economic problems of the South."

SCHW President Clark Foreman pointed out that the 65c minimum wage would "give the South the great new market it needs. The South is the most unused market in the country," he said. To prove that the increased wages would be paid for by bringing skilled workers to the South and increasing productivity, Foreman cited the Oak Ridge, Tenn., atomic bomb plant where the 65c minimum wage brought efficiency to a peak.

Win 85c Minimum at Van Camp's

San Diego, Calif.—Local 64's new contract with the Van Camp Sea Food Co., providing improvements in wage rates, vacations and union security, as well as establishing equal pay for equal work, check-off, and preferential hiring, was ratified on September 21 by an overwhelming vote of the 250 members present.

Minimum hourly rates established in the contract ranged from 65c an hour for cleaners and packers to $1.50 an hour for the head tuna butcher.

Two-week vacations were awarded to employees with two years' service, and one-week vacations for one year. Vacations will be paid on a 48-hour week straight-time basis.

In the preferential hiring clause, it was specified that employees hired outside the Union must join the Union within 6 days. The new contract also includes a no-discrimination clause.

In PAC 100%

Local 64 earned the distinction of being the only FTA Local in California to have a 100% contribution to PAC, when it presented a check for $305 to the State Executive Board on September 23. The money was raised through a $2.00 assessment voted by the membership.

Another 100% achievement was recorded by the Local when, in conjunction with the plant management, it contributed $2,300 to the Community Victory Chest drive, according to Int. Rep. Helga Weigert.

On the same day that the drive was completed the Union received a special award from the Red Cross for outstanding cooperation in donating blood during the war.

"A" Award

Van Camp workers are proudly wearing their new "A" Award buttons, awarded to them at a ceremony on October 11 by the Dept. of Agriculture for their accomplishments in producing food for freedom. Union members celebrated the event with an all-day picnic, including beer, food and dancing. The money raised at the picnic will be used to send leading members to the FTA California leadership training school.

"Are the nasty unions pushing Daddy around again?"

84c Minimum At Kind And Knox

By Louis Malinow, Local 80 Educational Director

Camden, N. J.—A 5c an hour blanket raise, bringing the minimum wage up to 84c an hour for unskilled workers, and an improved vacation set up were gained as a result of recent contract negotiations between Local 80 and the Kind & Knox Gelatine Company.

Two-week vacations were awarded for two years' service instead of the former three years.

The concessions won for the Kind & Knox workers had a good effect on the Campbell Soup unit of the Local, enabling them to sign up 200 new members in two days, among whom were many veterans and Negro workers. The drive to close the gap at Campbell's was headed by Business Agent Anthony Valentino, Chief Steward Benjamin Butler and Secy. Sylvia Neff.

Leaflets calling on the workers to "pull together for higher wages and better working conditions," were distributed at the plant gates during the noon hour.

The drive for 100% union membership at the Consolidated Cigar plant is being headed by Pauline Mickle and a committee of plant Stewards, assisted by 25 Campbell Soup Shop Stewards.

Endorsing the Camden County PAC recommendations for candidates in the State elections, Local 80 is pitching in to help elect candidates Giles Frazier, Harry Deith and George Neutze to the New Jersey State Assembly; Ralph W. Wescott, Recorder of Deeds; Frank A. Suttill, County Clerk; Raymond P. Hadley and Carrie M. Snyder, Freeholders; and John R. McCann, Coroner.

Local 80 is throwing full support to the big PAC pre-election dance to be held at the Camden Convention Hall on November 2.

Big Gains Made At Morgan's and Cherry Growers

By Edward Van Leishout, Reporter

Traverse City, Mich.—Gains in recent contract negotiations between Local 178 and the Cherry Growers and Morgan Canning Companies resulted in the complete elimination of exemption periods, 20% wage increases for women and 16-2/3% to 13% increases for men, as well as a 4c night shift differential.

Local 178's year-long campaign won time-and-a-half for overtime work in this year's cherry and peach pack, plus double time for work on the 7th day. And a clause in the new contract makes this a year-round procedure. Until now, Morgan and Cherry Growers' workers had been putting in limitless hours at straight-time pay during the first 14-week exemption period. They got overtime only after 56 hours a week during the second 14-week period.

It took a strike vote in the two plants to bring the Companies around to hearing the Union's wage demands. In spite of the Companies' sob stories that they could not give a cent in wage raises without seeking ceiling price relief, Local 178 members stuck to their guns. Cannery profits were at an all-time high, and the workers knew that they were entitled to raises.

Substantial Raises

After flatly refusing the Companies' offer of a 10c an hour increase for women, the Local, with the aid of Int. Rep. Chapin K. Armstrong, finally won the 20% increase which brought women's wages up to 60c an hour. Rates for common labor were set at 70c an hour. Key workers, maintenance men, firemen and cold storage help got new rates ranging from 78c to 86c an hour. The new 4c night shift differential was made retroactive to May 1, 1944.

Local 178 members can remember the days before they had a Union, when women got 30c an hour and men got 40c—with no vacations, no security, no nothing.

2 Plus 3 Equals A Big Local 25

Los Angeles, Calif.—Local 2 and Local 3 have been amalgamated into Local 25, thus pooling the strength of all FTA-organized plants in the area.

O. H. Johnston, former Local 3 Business Agent, will serve as the Business Agent of the new Local.

Local 25 has contracts with the following plants: California Walnut Growers Assn. plants 1 and 2, Royal Packing Co., Hunt Cannery, Continental Can plant, and the Cal-Foods plant. The Reliable Nut Co. may soon be added to the list as the NLRB has already ordered an election there.

One Man Sardik's Can't Get Rid Of

Lockport, N. Y.—For the second time the Sardik Food Products Company was defeated in its attempt to fire Local 356 Pres. Max Graybowski.

Graybowski had been forced to take a couple of weeks off because of illness. When he reported back to work he was informed that he had been fired. After taking the grievance up with the management, Graybowski was reinstated with full seniority and back pay. With his re-instatement order, Graybowski was able to claim sick benefit insurance for the full time of his illness.

Employed by the Company since November, 1943, Graybowski had once before been dismissed and reinstated in March, 1945.

Hills Brothers Uses Nazi POW's While B'klyn Workers Are On Strike

By Irene Agnes Gallagher, Reporter

Brooklyn, N. Y.—While Hills Bros. workers are on strike for a living wage, the Company is shipping work to a plant in Lyons, N. Y., where it employs Nazi Prisoners of War, in an effort to break the strike, Local 207 Pres. Viola Castignola revealed.

During the war, Hills Bros. workers were employed packing rations and processing fruit bars for our armed forces. When the war ended, the management cut wages from $1.04 an hour to 50c. The strike, which began on September 24, was called by the Union after the Company refused its demands for a 65c an hour rate for wome and 85c an hour for men.

A Union Committee composed of Fin. Secy. Rose DeCrescenzo, Vice-Pres. Helen Andricola, Shop Stewards Ralph De Crescenzo and Elsie Marchitello, and Strike Committee Chairman Dominick Foti visited the runaway plant in Lyons, N. Y., recently. They reported that the unorganized workers in the plant up there are anxious to join the Union and are very dissatisfied with the low wages paid and the employment of POW's. When plant officials discovered the Union Committee on plant property, they chased them off.

In a letter to all FTA locals, Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane urged the locals to spread the boycott of Hills Brothers' Dromedary foods in their communities, to send resolutions to the Company condemning their action, and to send financial assistance to the striking Local.

Signing Up By Hundreds In Planters' Campaign

By John C. Hunt, International Representative

Suffolk, Va.—"Get off my back and get beside me" is the slogan in Local 26's consolidation drive at the Planters Nut and Chocolate plant. Over 370 members signed up between September 25 and October 20 with 11 days more to reach the goal of 500.

A $25 war bond is being awarded to every member signing up 25 new members. Already, Mamie Cross and Ella Valentine have received two bonds each. Those who received one bond were: Jennie Johnson, Marie Artis, Hattie James, Fannie Carner, and Charles Darden.

The Union already has its sights set on contract negotiations next Spring, and is aiming to build a solid 100% organized bargaining unit in order to push successfully the drive for a 65c minimum.

A letter-writing campaign for Congressional action on the Pepper-Hook 65c minimum wage bill was launched by the Local and in the first two days 52 letters were sent by Local members. During elections for Local officers, a table was set up near the voting booth with a sign saying "Before you vote, write a letter for a wage increase." The table was equipped with paper, pencils and ink as well as a sheet of pointers on the bill that letter-writers should mention in their letters.

The newly elected officers of Local 26 are: Robbie Mae Riddick, Pres.; Isaac Baker, Vice-Pres.; Brady Walker, Rec. Secy.; Rev. L. V. Freeman, Secy.-Treas.; Clarence Copeland and Mamie Cross, trustees; Elizabeth Lucas, chaplain; Isaac Riddick, janitor; Amanda Jackson, Shop Chairlady; and Henry Bellamy, Sgt.-at-Arms.

Anna Magee, Local 80 Chairlady at the Siegel Cigar Company, took 47 people in her ward to register to vote during the PAC registration drive which took place in Camden, N. J., recently. Anna saw the names of the people who had not yet registered listed in the daily newspaper. On her own initiative, she picked out the names of her neighbors and spent three evenings visiting them and getting them out to register for the coming elections

FTA news

Published twice a month from September to July inclusive and monthly in August at 838 Greenwich Street New York 14, N. Y. by the

FEDERATION OF TOBACCO AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations
1502 Race Street
Philadelphia 2, Pa.
(Address all communications to Philadelphia office.)

DONALD HENDERSON
General President
HAROLD J. LANE
General Secretary-Treasurer

Vice-Presidents
Lewis Bentsley
John Mac Dyson
Louis F. Jedlicka
Luisa Moreno
Otis Nation (on leave)
Armando Ramirez
Robbie Mae Riddick
Dixie Tiller
Armando Valdes
Owen H. Whitfield

Editors: Hattie Selden

Subscription:
$1 a year to non members

Re-entered as second class matter December 30, 1944 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

NEXT ISSUE: Material must be in by 9 a.m., Nov. 2.

Vol. V, No. 19 Nov. 1, 1945

Starting the Picket Line, Regional Director Lew Bentzley gets a sign hung around his neck by workers of the Philadelphia American Tobacco plant. When the Company refused to meet Local 186's demand for a 25c an hour wage increase, a 65c minimum, a union shop and a no-discrimination clause in their contract, the workers walked out and set up strike headquarters next door. The workers at the Trenton, N. J., plant (Local 56) and the Charleston, S. C., plant (Local 15) joined the walkout soon after the Company announced that it changed its mind about meeting the Union before a U. S. Conciliation Commissioner until the workers went back to their jobs.

Organizing Bayuk's: While some American Tobacco strikers signed up for picket duty, others volunteered to help in the organizing drive at the Bayuk Cigar plant. Shown above handing out leaflets to Bayuk workers are some American Tobacco strikers and Int. Rep. Jack Fox, just discharged from the Army Air Forces. The Bayuk plant, one of the largest tobacco plants in Philadelphia area, employs over 3,000 workers. Using open hostility and intimidation and concessions, the plant management has done everything it can to prevent the workers from organizing. But Bayuk workers figure that if just the threat of Union organization will force the Company to make concessions, even greater gains can be won once the Union is in.

Amer. Tobacco Plants Strike For 25c Raise

Philadelphia, Pa.—When a Company making over 2 million dollars profit yearly tells the Union it can't afford to meet the workers' demands for decent wages and working conditions, it's time to do something about it. And American Tobacco workers did—they went out on strike.

In reply to the Union's demands for a 25c an hour increase, a 65c minimum wage, a union shop and a no-discrimination clause in the contract, the Company came back with what amounted to a 6c raise for workers making 60c an hour on a 40-hour basis.

"The workers can't get along on the $30.75 weekly many of them make now, but the Company offer would cut that to $23.40 for a 40-hour week," said Regional Representative Jessica Rhine when informed of the Company's proposal. Contract negotiations have been going on since May.

On Monday, October 15, Union members voted overwhelmingly to strike for their demands which the Company had rejected. Some signed up for picket duty while others volunteered for organizing duty at the Bayuk Cigar plant.

Sign Up Members

Applications for Union membership came in thick and fast from both plants in response to Regional Director Lew Bentzley's advice that signing up more members would be the best guarantee of winning their demands.

Support for the American Tobacco strike came from many quarters. Local 638 in Lancaster, Pa., sent a check for 50 dollars. Similar contributions came from the other shop units of Local 186 as well as from Local 80 in Camden, N. J. AFL teamsters showed their support by refusing to ship stuff for the Company until the strike is over.

When the Company backed out of a conciliation meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 20, Local 15 backed up the strikers by calling out the American Tobacco workers at the Charleston, S. C., plant, and Local 56 soon followed with similar action at the Trenton, N. J., plant.

Local 15 had been negotiating a 15c raise under their wage reopening clause. When informed of the strike in Philadelphia, they joined Local 186 in demanding 25c. A three-man committee from the Local headed by Pres. Reuel Stanfield is now in Philadelphia ready to present their demands jointly with Local 186.

Urge Boycott

Some 5,000 leaflets urging the public to boycott American Tobacco products (Luckies, Pall Mall, Roi Tans and others) were distributed by the Strike Committee. Local 273 is also distributing the leaflets in New York at the same time that it is picketing the Company's main office.

"We want an immediate 10c an hour increase," said Reg. Rep. Rhine, explaining the nature of the Union's wage demands. "We want a reopening clause in the contract so the other 15c can be negotiated after the CIO steel, auto and electrical unions have settled their demands for a $2 a day increase."

Members of the Strike Committee are: Mario Rodrequez, Harry Johnston, Elnora Smith, John W. Smith, Millie Perkins, Eloise Robberson, Sara Eley, Edith May, Nathan Javitz, Ida Jefferson, Emmet R. Collom, William Danhardt, Wilbert Strickler, Josephine Pozzuto, Cora Adams, Ellis Lindahl, Rose Mansi, Mary Turner, Bernice Robertson, Millie Martin and Peg Kendig.

Organizing Drive on at Bayuk Cigar

Philadelphia, Pa.—They've tried intimidation, they've tried fatherly pep talks, they've even tried bribery at the Bayuk Cigar Company to keep the workers from joining the Union. But it won't work. Bayuk workers are signing up by the score in FTA.

FTA organizers have been giving out leaflets outside the plant under the eyes of the management "Gestapo" who stand around and give every worker who takes a leaflet a dirty look. When the management found that their dirty looks didn't keep the workers from joining the Union, they tried bribery in the form of a promise of a raise, six paid holidays and retention of the 10% war bonus. Of course, they didn't specify how much the raise would be.

But these promises didn't lessen determination of the workers to make their plant a union plant. They know that if the mere threat of a Union at Bayuk's can scare the Company into giving a raise, then a Union in the plant will surely win for them their demands.

Organizing Committee

The organizing drive at the Bayuk plant, where over 3,000 workers are employed, is going full steam ahead. A Bayuk workers' Organizing Committee has already been formed, and their request for help from the organized tobacco workers in the area has been heartily answered by Local 186 members who work at Penn State Cigar and American Tobacco as well as the Local 80 members from across the river in Camden.

Not only have FTA members answered the call, but National Maritime Union seamen just off the ships, UE workers and organizers, and other CIO members in the area have offered their help as well.

Local 22 Fights Reynolds' Use of Nazi POW's to Replace Workers

By Theodosia Simpson, Reporter

Winston-Salem, N. C.—The war may be over, but the R. J. Reynolds (Camels) Company is still employing Nazi prisoners of war instead of American workers.

On October 10, the Company took 15 workers out of No. 1 leaf house and shipped them to the nicotine plant to work. As these men left to be transferred, they found that POW's were being put on the jobs they left. Immediately they reported their grievance to the Local 22 office and the Union sent the report to the Superintendent of No. 1. However, he refused to accept the grievance.

An hour passed, and still no word from the Company, so the Union got busy and planned quick action. Some 15 signs were painted announcing to the citizens of Winston-Salem that "Fascism is not dead. Nazi prisoners work while American citizens are unemployed."

In a short time, these signs appeared all over the Winston-Salem business district and before the plant gates. Some of the signs read: "A Nazi prisoner took my job at No. 1 leaf house. Protest to R.J.R. and U.S.E.S.," "We won the war in Germany but not in Winston-Salem. Nazi thieves are stealing workers' jobs at Reynolds."

Winston-Salem citizens lost no time in expressing their indignation at such injustice. One soldier stopped a Union member and asked why they were walking the streets with those slogans. When the situation was explained to him, he swore and said, "I fought those Nazis for fourteen months in Europe. Have I got to do the same here all over again?"

By Friday morning, October 12, the case was settled and the Company agreed to allow the men to return to their original jobs at No. 1 leaf house. The 15 men were called in and re-instated on Monday morning.

Sam Williams, newly elected Shop Steward over at the No. 1 plant said that the demonstration not only brought results by reinstating the men, but it also won 26 new members for the Union in his department.

Another Shop Steward in No. 1, John Holland, reported that he signed up the last non-union worker in his department on the day the 15 men were re-instated.

Local 22 won the first round in the fight against the Nazis in Winston-Salem. Now they aim to get them out of the city and out of the country entirely—but quick!

Win $30,000 Back Pay At A. Pollack

By Richard V. Reinhardt, Pres.

Wheeling, W. Va. — Some $30,000 in back pay was awarded to the employees of the Augustus Pollack cigar company when Local 200 won 6½c to 11½c per hour wage increases retroactive to February 1.

The increases were won as the result of negotiations which took place when the 1944-45 contract expired. The contract will remain the same for 1945-46 except for the change in wages.

Members of the Negotiating Committee were: Richard V. Reinhardt, Pres.; Helen V. Hercules, Secy.; Burnett Defibaugh, Laura Carl, Ernest Heubner, Alice Jenkins, Bertha Pisarcik, Gertrude Kolibash, Mary M. Weidman, Goldie Pryor and Lillian Conner. They were assisted by Regional Director Armando Valdes.

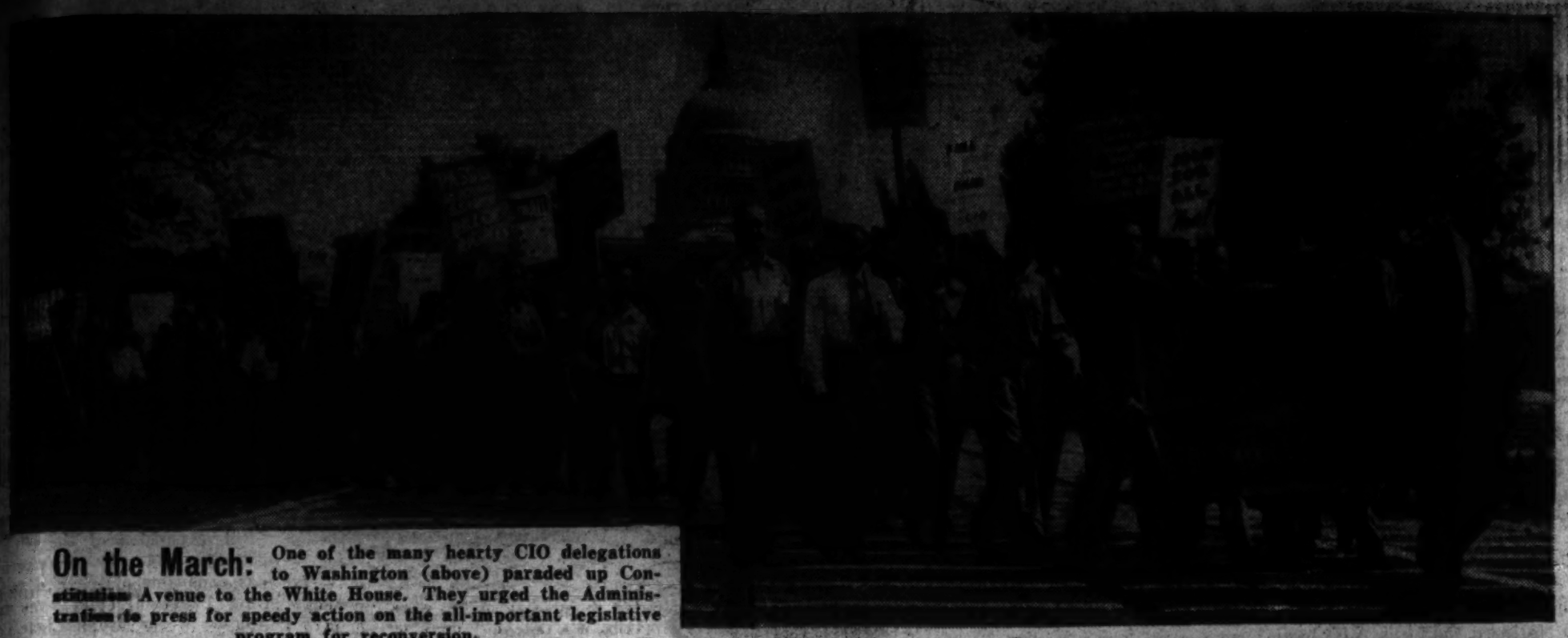
Local 56 in PAC Drive

By Sally Grades, Reporter

Trenton, N. J.—Political action is getting into full swing in Local 56 with a campaign to get all CIO members registered to vote in the 1946 Congressional elections. The Local is throwing its support to Judge George Pelleteri who is running for Congress from this district. He is a well-known friend of labor.

Sparkplugs in the drive have been Local 56 Pres. Lucy Aiello and Shop Steward Julia Schieve who led the way by canvassing house to house, getting their friends and neighbors out to register.

Local 56 members were among the 4,000 Trenton citizens who jammed the Memorial Building to attend the giant Anti-Discrimination Rally where Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the guest speaker. She did a great deal to inform her audience of the harm that discrimination brings to all, and also urged all people in the nation to band together in unity to build a happier future. The United States is the laboratory of equality for all and fraternity, she said.



On the March: One of the many hearty CIO delegations to Washington (above) paraded up Constitution Avenue to the White House. They urged the Administration to press for speedy action on the all-important legislative program for reconversion.

The Voice Of The People Is Heard In Washington

DELEGATES from FTA locals have been joing hundreds of other workers in CIO delegations from all over the country, who have been "marching to Washington" in the past month. Button-holing their Congressmen, making them talk, and talking to them, the delegates laid the CIO legislation program right at the doorsteps of the Capitol.

"Will you vote for more unemployment compensation, full employment and the 65c minimum wage?" The Congressmen knew that their answers would be reported in full, back home, where their voters would know what's-what.

A typical delegation of 250 CIO'ers from all parts of the South was described by FTA Int. Org. Larry Larsen as "the most wonderful sight we have ever seen."

"I suppose it was kind of hard for the Southern Congressmen to see us all together, regardless of the color of our skins," Larsen reported. "We were all workers who have participated in winning this war, and we were in Washington participating jointly in winning jobs for all and decent pay.

A Busy Day

"It was really a busy day. Wherever you would look, you'd see a delegation of workers with determined-looking faces on their way to see their Congressmen to tell them what was on their minds.

"A joint delegation met with a group of Senators and Representatives in Senator Tunnell's office. There we told the story of low-paying jobs in the South, and why it is important to pass the 65c minimum wage bills. Only one Congressman committed himself on the bills. Most of the Congressmen from the South said they were against the bills—their excuse being that it would put a lot of people out of business. We know that is bunk, and we told them so.

"As far as the delegation from Charlotte is concerned, we feel that we have a hard task ahead. We have resolved that we must intensify our political action. We must not only involve our whole membership, but we also must rally the support of the people in our community behind the CIO's program."

Jim Crow Eastland

Reg. Dir. Frank Hargrove reported the same type of determination with which the Tennessee and Mississippi delegations left Washington. They had an enlightening interview with die-hard Senator Eastland, who, said Hargrove, was against practically all the bills backed by the CIO.

"The brighter side of the story," Hargrove said, "is the fact that a great service was done for the working people through the work of the Southern delegation. Their reports of visits to their respective Representatives indicated that there will now be more support for the bills backed by the CIO."

"We delegates called our trip to Washington 'a mission for America,'" reported Int. Org. Kenneth Hrischy, who came with the Indiana CIO delegation. "Over a hundred Indiana labor representatives told the Hoosier Congressmen about labor's reconversion program. Some of the Congressmen were agreeable to most of the CIO program; some weren't.

"All were impressed, at least, by the sincerity of a group of men and women who would spend the time and money to go all the way to Washington to lobby for bills that didn't seem so 'selfish' after all. We pointed out that labor's program was also a program for farmers and small businessmen.

Plight of Jobless

"Laid-off war workers, Congressmen were told, now have only a choice of working in a canning factory or picking chickens at 40c or 45c an hour. 'Unless this trend is stopped,' one CIO spokesman stormed, 'Indiana economics is going down the low road.'

"Congressmen were told that washing machines are being made and stored in warehouses until bigger profits are in sight. We told of the alarming increase in redemptions of War Bonds in Indiana during September. 'There won't be any cushion of War Bond money for these workers to fall back on if this unemployment keeps up.'"

Good and Bad Responses

Local 638 was represented in the Pennsylvania CIO delegation of 700 on Sept. 27, Harry M. Tillbrook reported. They found good support for the CIO program from the Democratic Congressmen, but a majority of the Republican Representatives were non-committal. "Congressman Kinzer from our district practically said No to all our questions," Tillbrook said.

Some of the other FTA representatives who participated in the Washington delegations were: Etta Hobson, Velma Hopkins, Robert Black and Wesley Bee, from Local 22, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Reuel Stanfield, Mrs. Buckheister and Mrs. Reid, from Local 15, Charleston, S. C.; J. Johnson from Local 150, Nashville, Tenn.; Max Sussman from Locals 45 and 57, Richmond, Va.; Andrew Dotterman from Local 638, Lancaster, Pa.; and delegations from Local 80, Camden, N. J., and Local 56, Trenton, N. J.

"Pass the Pepper Bill," FTA witnesses told Congress on Oct. 19. Coming out of the Senate Office Building (above) are James Iden Smith, dairy farmer from New Hope, Pa., who joined the FTA delegation; Elsie Bonner, Campbell Soup Shop Steward, Local 80; Anna Magee, Shop Chairman at Siegel Cigar, Local 80; and Robert Latham, Chairman of three leaf houses, Local 22.

Mr. Smith followed FTA Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane in testifying before the Senate Labor and Education Committee, but the other FTA witnesses were not given time to speak. Instead, they lobbied all afternoon, bringing their stories and demand for passage of the Pepper 65c Minimum Bill to their own Congressmen.

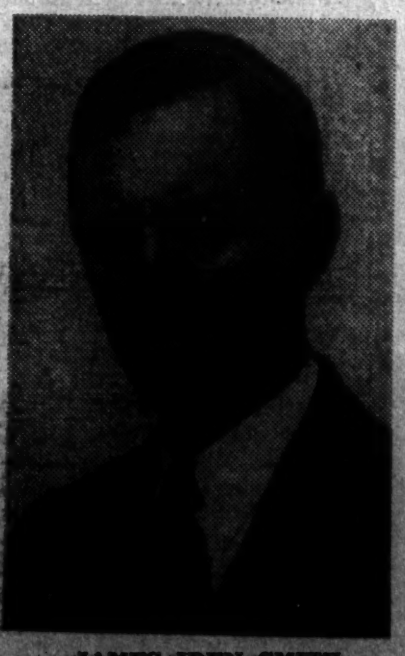
Mrs. Bonner told how the Campbell Soup Co. now pays time and a half after 40 hours per week all year round, as a result of collective bargaining with the Union. All food processing workers should have this protection under the law, she said.

Mr. Latham showed how the 14-week seasonal exemption caused hardship among tobacco workers. The leaf houses in Winston-Salem jam as much work as possible into these 14 weeks, thus leaving seasonal workers unemployed by Christmas time, whereas the work could be stretched out until March if there were no seasonal exemption.

Mrs. Magee, who earns 54c an hour, told her Senator how hard it is to live on such a small wage. When she was out sick for a month last year, the people in her plant took up a collection each week to help with her expenses, although some of them earn less than Mrs. Magee when she is working. (The Local has just negotiated wage increases which will bring Mrs. Magee to 65c on January 1.)

Mr. Smith, Farmer,

came to Washington with the FTA delegation to tell Senators how an ordinary dairy farmer looks at the 65c minimum wage. President of the Solebury Consumers Cooperative Association in New Hope, Pa., Smith told members of the Senate Labor and Education Committee that, in his 30 years of experience as a farmer, he has found that higher city wages meant more prosperity on the farm. "Even 65c an hour isn't enough, if we dairy farmers want to sell all our products," Smith said. He warned the Senators that the country is headed for a deep depression, unless city people earn enough wages so that they can afford to buy farm products.



JAMES IDEN SMITH

Local 120 Wins At Quaker Oats 15.3% Increase

By J. N. Billings, Reporter

Akron, Ohio—A new contract signed on October 10 between Local 120 and the Quaker Oats Co. won an average 15.2% wage increase for the workers.

The nature of the increase was a flat 10c an hour raise plus an approximate 25% bonus on top of the wage raise, and 6 paid holidays. When broken down, the increase for lower-paid workers amounted to about 20%, while those in the upper-wage brackets won wage increases of about 12½%. Minimum rates for women are now 74c an hour plus bonus, while for men they are 84c an hour plus bonus.

Other gains in the contract include an improved paid vacation plan of one week for one year, two weeks for four or more years, and three weeks for twenty years.

40-Hour Week

The work week at the plant was shortened from the former 48 hours to 40 hours and an 8-hour day.

In addition to shorter hours of work, wage raises and improved vacations, other outstanding gains were a clause permitting the reopening of wage negotiations on January 10, 1946; elimination of the 15-day "escape" clause, maintenance of membership, check-off, guaranteed 140 hours work a month, guaranteed service bonus of 15%, a profit sharing bonus of from 6% to 11% of the employees' yearly earnings, leave of absence for Union business or for personal business, and departmental seniority.

100% Union Shop

In determining who is to work on the night shifts, departmental seniority will prevail. Bonus for the 2nd shift will be 5c an hour and for the 3rd shift—8c an hour.

Of course, Local 120 members agree that it was a 100% Union shop that won for them such a fine contract. Their Negotiating Committee was composed of Pres. Ralph Weaver, Vice-Pres. Ed Baltzer, Chief Shop Steward Joseph Wall, Chief Departmental Stewards Louis Barnes and Tommy Hayes, and Ex-Pres. Hugh Moneypenny. They were assisted by Regional Director Armando Valdes.

tory which he had helped so much to achieve. Members of the Negotiating Committee whom Delahoyde had assisted were Al Mickler, Rosella Leininger, Adeline Fisher, Eddie Mineara and Myrtle French.

Participate In Calif. PAC Parley

By Mario C. Hermoso, Reporter

San Francisco, Calif.—Over 225 delegates representing more than 50 Northern California CIO locals heard General Pres. Donald Henderson speak on the Northern California Cannery elections during the morning session of a CIO political action conference on October 7.

The conference was held to map out a program of political action to obtain jobs and security for all. Within a few minutes after the conference opened, delegates divided themselves into five panels on full employment, democratic rights, organizing the unorganized, unemployment insurance and legislative and community action.

Five delegates from Local 7 participated in the panels on democratic rights for all and organizing the unorganized.

In the financial report, it was noted that the two FTA Northern California Locals—7 and 78, had contributed a total of $329.33 to PAC since February.

Wage Raise Won at Depew Quaker Plant

By Myrtle French, Reporter

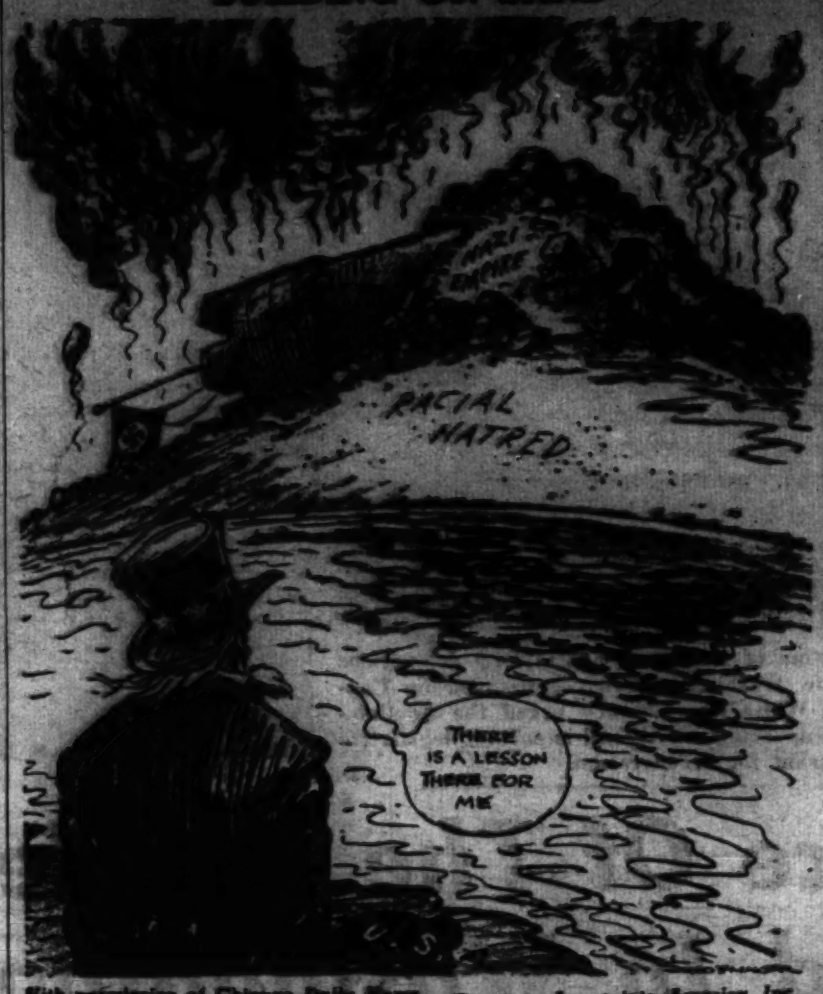
Depew, N.Y.—A 3c an hour general wage increase, retroactive to last February, was ordered by the WLB for the employees of the Quaker Oats Co. as the result of the demands of Local 115.

Other gains in the contract just negotiated were time and a half for overtime, and 48-hour vacation pay instead of the former 40 hours. Wages for the morning shift were brought up to 62c an hour as the result of the raise, and to 68c for the afternoon shift.

Union demands for further negotiations for a 30% wage increase have already been presented to the management.

The sudden death of Int. Org. Edward Delahoyde came as a blow to the members on top of the vic-

BUILDING ON SAND



With permission of Chicago Daily News Courtesy Appreciate America, Inc.

FTA Councils In Action

Tri-State

By Frank Green, Regional Director

Richmond, Va.—Local delegates to the Tri-State Regional Council meeting here on October 13 and 14 reported that through increased consolidation and political action, the locals had dealt their first heavy blow to the union-busting aims of reactionary interests.

From Local 15 in Charleston came a report that the American Tobacco workers are fast approaching 100% membership with over 200 new members signed up in the past two months.

Local 22 in Winston-Salem reported 1,500 new members signed up in the last three months. The independent leaf houses are now over 95% union, and workers at the Camels plant are fast catching up. A petition for certification has been filed with the NLRB for an election at the Imperial Leaf Tobacco Co.

Topping all other reports, Local 26 of Suffolk revealed that by signing up 253 new members in two weeks they increased the membership by 30%.

In Richmond, Local 45 now has 95% of the workers, while Local 57 has only 3 more workers to sign up to make Southern Biscuit a 100% union plant.

Int. Secy-Treas. Harold J. Lane added to the spirit of the meeting by his report on the Northern California Cannery Drive and the CIO wage demands. The Council pledged a $1-per-member contribution to the Cannery Drive. A resolution was passed calling on all locals to press for a 65c hourly minimum and a 25c wage increase in all coming negotiations.

Buckling down to the most immediate task on hand, the delegates pledged over 300 letters a week to Congress demanding passage of the 65c minimum wage bill and urging elimination of all exemptions from overtime.

Northeast

Brooklyn, N.Y.—Some 24 delegates, representing eight locals in this area, reported on their progress in contract negotiations, consolidation and political action at the Northeast Regional Council meeting here on September 16.

After a report from the Local 207 delegates on the Hills Bros. strike situation, the locals pledged wholehearted finapcial and physical support to the strike.

Stressing the need for putting political pressure on Congress, Regional Director Armando Ramirez led a discussion on PAC work in the locals. Local 273 reported success in mobilizing the membership to take an active part in the mayoralty elections. Local 56 is supporting a labor candidate for Congress on an Independent ticket.

Resolutions were adopted demanding passage of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Social Security Bill, a permanent FEPC, the Murray-Patman Full Employment Bill.

IN MEMORIAM

The FTA National Office regrets to announce the death of International Organizer Edward Delahoyde. Brother Delahoyde came to work for FTA last May when he was appointed Union representative for the Locals in the Buffalo, New York, area.

Notes from the Locals

Good Congress

3 Los Angeles, Calif. ... hearted support ... CIO legislative program pledged by four California Congressmen in response to ... sent to them by Local 3.

The replies received from ... resentatives Ned R. Healy, ... R. King, Ellis E. Patterson, Helen Gahagan Douglas, ... that they welcomed the ... from Local 3. They also ... that they were actively ... for the passage of the Full ... ployment Bill, the Kilgore ... Unemployment Compensation ... the Wagner-Murray-Dingell ... Security Bill, a Permanent ... Sen. Pepper's 65c Minimum ... Bill, expansion of the GI ... Rights, and other measures ... as expansion of the Federal ... ing Program, child care ... public works projects, etc.

By Dixie Tiller, Int. ...

New Officers

7 Seattle, Wash. ... elected officers ... are: Prudencio P. Mo... Mamerto S. Ventura, M... zales and Marcelino Divi... Presidents; J. A. Velasco, ... C. L. Camarillo, Treas.; C... N. Briones, Business Agent; ... patcher Vincent Pilien; L... Soria, patrolman; Pablo S. ... dona and Salvador Eleccion, T... tees; San Francisco Agent ... S. Valdez; Chris Mensalvas, ... land Agent; and Gene C... Pete Cabansag, King M... Pablo Soria, Guido Almanse... Bautista, Marcial Peralta, Le... renzo and George Pascha ... 9 Executive Board members ... Local.

30 Fremont, Mich. — N... elected officers of Local ... are: Julius Dake, Pres.; ... Campbell, Vice-Pres.; H... Thenikl, Treas.; Dorothy ... Rec. Secy.; and Emma L... Fin. Secy.

65c Minimum ...

7-2 Seattle, Wash.—Lo... sent wires to Wash... Senators and the Senate ... tion and Labor Committee ... favorable action on S 1... Pepper 65c minimum wage ...

The wire urged the Senato... include coverage of the agri... tural and fish processing wo... and seamen in the Bill. We ... all unions and progressive or... zations to get behind this ... which so vitally affects the w... ers' living standards.

By Florence Palmer, Rep...

New Local

85 San Jose, Calif.—Local ... the first local to be ... tered in the FTA Northern ... fornia Cannery Drive, rec... elected its officers. They are: ... Stallings, Pres.; Fred Less, Sec... Treas. and Business Agent; ... John Melgar, Rec. Secy.

New Officers

166 Marshalltown, Iowa—N... ly elected officers of Lo... 166 are: L. R. Olsen, James Yo... Vice-Pres.; and Palmer Peter... Secy.-Treas.

Win Election at Swift Cottonseed

Columbia, S. C. — Added strength was brought to FTA when, on Oct. 12th, the worke... in the Swift Co. cotton ... oil plant voted 97 per ... strong in favor of the FTA ... their bargaining agent. The ... plant is located on the outski... of Columbia, and in peak ... son employs about 85 work...

International Organizer O. ... McKaine states that the ... tract to be negotiated will ... mand a 65c minimum and ... have an overtime clause.

FTA Councils

From time to time this list of area councils will appear in the News for the information of the local unions.

Northeastern Council
New York State, Northern Jersey (including Trenton), New England
Armando Ramirez, Regional Director
145 E. 103rd St., New York 29, N.Y.

Middle Atlantic Council
South Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland
Lewis C. Bentzley, Regional Director
Room 402, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

Tri-State Council
North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia
Frank Green, Regional Director
247½ N. Main Street, Winston Salem, N. C.

Southern Council
Florida, Alabama and Georgia
John G. Lackner, Regional Director
Room 9, 30 E. Church St., Orlando, Fla.

Michigan-Ohio Council
Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Northern Kentucky
Armando Valdes, Regional Director
1000 Walnut Street, Cleveland, Ohio

Texas Council
Harry Koger, Regional Director
(No address as yet), Houston, Texas

Wisconsin-Minnesota Council
Wisconsin and Minnesota
Harry Virgil, Regional Director
108 Wells Street, Milwaukee 3, Wis.

Mississippi Valley Council
Mississippi, Western Tennessee, Arkansas, Southern Kentucky
Frank Hargrove, Regional Director
66 S. Third Street, Memphis, Tennessee

Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa Council
Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado
Louis Jedlicka, Regional Director
419½ Second Ave., S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Indiana-Illinois Council
Indiana, Illinois
Jack Fox, Regional Director
2424 W. 35th St., Chicago, Ill.

California-Arizona Council
California and Arizona
Luisa Moreno, Regional Director
Room 301, 150 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco 2, Calif.

Northwestern Council
Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska
Conrad Espe, Regional Director
221 Second Avenue, Seattle 14, Wash.

EAR BROTHER:

TA and NUDAW Members Get cquainted Across-the-Ocean

the past month, FTA and our British sister-union, the National Union of Distribu- and Allied Workers, started something new in international labor unity. Both FTA WS and the NUDAW journal, NEW DAWN carried notices inviting members of both s to correspond with each other. Both our Unions believe that the basis for world solidarity lies in the mutual understanding and sympathy between workers of all tries. The first letters in our across-the-ocean correspondence are printed here.

Henry W. Attkins, Branch Secretary, Lon- England:

Sir:

have noticed in our Union nal an appeal for correspon- between members of our two and it gives me great pleasure to sub- mit my name and address for use of any of your members.

Attkins

As for the facts about my- self, I am aged 33 and have been employed in the optical trade for the past 15 years. e been employed as a frame r for that period.

trust that this slight informa- may tempt one of your mem- to write. If more than one of members wishes to write, I answer all letters, whether be from male or female.

swered by Wesley Kopecky, irman, FTA Local 110, Cedar ids, Iowa:

Brother:

st of all, I want to introduce lf. My name is Wesley cky. I am chairman of the Cereal Workers, Local 110, FTA-CIO, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This is my second term as chairman of this Local. Our local represents the workers in the Quaker Oats Co. and also Cargill Inc. The Quaker Oats plant makes all of cereals and stock feeds, the Cargill plant manufac- feeds.

Kopecky

Local was formed in March , and we negotiated our first September 1941. We started a membership of 150, and at nt, we boast of a membership pproximately 900 members. is a very remarkable growth ring the fact that this was y anti-union community. This longer true today, as the peo- have awakened to the fact that unions are necessary for the th and prosperity of city and ion.

We have made very many gains. main gain was recognition of rity. In the past, a man's ce did not always have the it should have. The next important was the present- and handling of grievances. A n is now free to present a griev- without the fear that some man will make things miser- for him. He knows that if he a grievance that all the work- will stand behind him.

We have also won wage in- , bonuses for night work- good vacation schedule, rest , improved working condi- and many other gains. One rly forgot is Union mainte- of membership. A member stay a member.

After all, this is a small world, that workers have a big job of them. One that will take nited effort of all to accom- . We must make this a decent to live and work in, not only but for our children too.

From R. Walker, member, NUDAW, Essex, England:

Dear Sir:

My business is meat, and I am a manager of the Co-operative Societies meat department in this town, so I would very much appreciate exchanging views and to write about the problems with which we are faced over here and hear of yours.

Naturally, in recent years I have met dozens of GI's who have tried to explain your methods of business and I am especially interested in the Frozen Food Locker Industry.

I would like to know more about your methods in general and would therefore like to hear from anyone who cares to drop me a line.

Answered by Curtis Dowden, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, FTA Local 18, DeKalb, Illinois:

Dear Brother Walker:

I am a farm tenant and work by the month for the California Packing Corporation. This Corporation raises and processes peas, sweet corn, lima beans and cattle feed during the winter months. I live on one of their leased farms of 240 acres. The DeKalb plant leases more than 8,000 acres. My work consists of helping plant, cultivate and harvest these crops and feeding cattle in the winter.

Dowden

The Union in the plant was organized in 1943 and is progressing nicely now, for this summer we obtained a check-off system and job evaluations. The workers are allowed time and one half over 10 hours during the pack season, and some men work 15 to 20 hours per day.

This Corporation does not can frozen foods so I have no experience in that line of work. However, you asked about the Frozen Food Locker Industry and I can say that we have the locker service here in DeKalb and it has proven very satisfactory.

The lockers are in great demand and I have been unable to obtain one for my family. The meat is slaughtered and taken immediately to the locker where it is cooled thoroughly and then cut up and prepared as the owner wishes. The average cost in 2c per pound for the meat being stored, the cost for the rental of the locker is $12.00 per year. The locker holds an average of five or six hundred pounds. Home freezing units are rapidly becoming available and will perhaps offer competition for the Locker Service.

From Bert Francis, NUDAW Branch Secretary, Cardiff, England:

Dear Colleagues:

Here in Cardiff, with a population of 230,000, I work for the Cooperative Wholesale Society (CWS). I am employed in its Shirt Factory office. Our total number of employees is 250. Trade union membership is a condition of CWS employment.

My own trade union, the NUDAW, has a Cardiff CWS branch with 300 members and I am the branch secretary. We are hoping shortly to amalgamate with the Shop Assistants' union and that will mean a doubling of our branch membership.

I have been secretary of my trade union about two years. I am 36 years of age. At the age of 14, I left the elementary school and commenced work with the CWS. This was in 1923. The annual sales of the CWS in 1923 was £66 and ¾ million (267 million dollars). Today—after 22 years of my labours—the annual sales are nearly £200 million (800 million dollars). It is easy to see what I have meant to the CWS!! I need hardly add that my increases in pay have not kept pace with the increase in sales!!!

Pay in the CWS for clerks is based on a minimum scale at the age of 24 of 72/-weekly ($14.40), plus a wartime bonus of 24/6d ($4.90). Too often this minimum becomes the maximum. Hours of work for clerks are from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., and then from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Half holiday is on Saturday, with business finishing at noon. Any overtime is paid at the rate of time and a quarter. Our annual holidays are two weeks, plus six paid holidays.

Female rates of pay vary greatly, but it can be said generally that for every 1/- (20c) paid to a male, the female receives 8d (13½c).

The NUDAW is one of the six largest trade unions in Britain. Its membership is now 270,000. The total trade union membership in Britain exceeds six million.

Since the Trades Dispute Act of 1927, all trade unionists who desire to contribute towards the political fund of the trade union have to signify their willingness to do so on what is known as a "contracting-in" form. My own trade union branch has a 100% "contracting-in" membership. For the NUDAW as a whole, the percentage is nearly ninety. The political payment per member is 2/- per annum (40c per year).

In a financial sense it is from these trade union political funds that the British Labour Party derives its being. Now that the Labour Party has become the government of the country, the people are looking for something new and different, both in home and foreign policy. The problems—both industrial and political—which confront Britain today are too vast and complex to be analyzed at the end of a letter already, I fear, too long. Perhaps, if you desire to, I shall endeavour to outline these problems in my next letter.

Answered by Veronica Kryzan, Financial Secretary, FTA Local 194, Chicago, Illinois:

Dear Brother Francis:

We, too, are happy to have the opportunity of making contact by correspondence with our English brothers and sisters.

Kryzan

Our Union, Local 194, has five contracts with five companies in the food processing industry covering approximately 3,500 year-round employees, and a season peak for 8 weeks in the fall covering an additional 800 workers. Our contracts are with companies who process various kinds of canned soups, vinegar, coffee; and, during the war, Army rations.

Our minimum wage rates for men are 75c per hour, running up to $1.45 per hour for top-skilled workers. Women workers receive a minimum of 62c and 64c an hour, which in many cases, becomes the maximum, the same as does your women's rates.

Our workers receive from one-week vacation for one year's service to two-weeks vacation for two year's service. Some plants only pay two-weeks vacation for five years' service. In each of these plants we receive from one to six paid holidays per year. We also have a bonus for night shift workers that runs from 5c per hour in some plants to 10% of the base rates for all workers on the second and third shifts.

Our Local Union was organized in 1940, and our present membership is about 2,000.

During the war we upheld a no-strike pledge and the companies took advantage of the workers which caused the Union to suffer in membership. The workers realized that the winning of the war was a main objective and were willing to make additional sacrifices in order to accomplish this number one job. Too often the few strikes that took place in this country were played up by the newspapers as the rule rather than the exception. They did this to turn our fighting men against the workers on the production line. Government figures show that less than ½ of 1% of the total man hours worked was lost during the war because of strikes.

Our returning veterans when told of this fact, began to see the aims of the vicious employers in using them for an all-out drive to smash the trade unions. Like all other vicious employer tactics, we feel that this one will fail also.

We want to congratulate you upon being able to establish a Labor Government. We, in America, were pleased at your progress in the political field. In the United States, the progressive trade union movement is only some 10 years old. We were organized on an economic field primarily during the depression years, 1935-40. Political action on the part of our members was taken lightly until the elections of 1942 brought into sharp focus the need for political action.

The CIO again took the lead by establishing the Political Action Committee, which for the first time, put labor into the political field on a grand scale. It seems that the CIO, and we do not say this merely because we are members, is the one outstanding Union which has come to the forefront in working for labor's interest in all fields.

We are now leading the labor movement of America in the fight to establish world trade union unity. World labor needs a world trade union organization which can speak out on a world scale on behalf of those who toil.

In describing yourself, I note that you are a man. In America women hesitate to give their ages and other detailed particulars. Since I am a woman, I will merely state that I am Financial Secretary and News Reporter for my Local. I worked in the Campbell Soup Company Can Plant, which was formerly owned by the Continental Can Company, for 8 years.

As a woman, I am proud to participate in the building of our Union and to have had the opportunity to help women workers better their conditions through collective bargaining.

Safe at last, these tots who lived in the Buchenwald death camp play with the first toys they have ever known and learn to forget terror. They are among the first of a thousand orphans being brought to England from Germany. (Federated Pictures.)

WRITE A LETTER

ALL FTA members are invited to join in the correspondence just started between our Union and our British sister-Union, the NUDAW. You can answer any of the letters from NUDAW members printed here, or address it to the NUDAW in general, to reach other workers.

Send your letter to FTA News, Room 418, 1505 Race St., Phila. 2, Pa., and we will send it to Britain for you.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Jack Fox, who just received his discharge from the Army, has been appointed FTA Indiana - Illinois Regional Director, Int. Secy. Treas. Harold Lane announced recently. A former International Representative, Fox served over two years in the Army Air Forces as a Staff Sgt. He holds the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Presidential Unit Citation and three battle stars for his role in bombing missions over Germany.

"Veterans can be right proud of the war record of FTA," said Fox on receiving his appointment. "I feel grateful to FTA workers for the excellent job they did to "Keep 'em Eating," and the sacrifices they made so that victory over the Axis could be won.

"The war is over now," he continued. "The long - pending grievances which FTA workers have suffered must be settled. I have yet to meet an ex-soldier who doesn't want a higher standard for himself and his family. Actually, that is what he has been fighting for.

"The needs of the veteran and the workers are identical. And in the struggle for a better life for all working Americans, labor can count upon the support of the veteran. The program of organized labor is the answer to the needs of all sections of the American population. Organized labor is the veterans' best friend."

Improve GI Bill CIO Vets Tell Congress

Washington, D. C.—Improvements in the GI Bill of Rights including better provisions on housing and increased unemployment compensation, were requested by the CIO Veterans Committee, represented by Meyer Bernstein, before the Senate Finance Committee on October 11.

Amendments proposed by the CIO to improve the GI Bill of Rights include:

- Boosting of unemployment benefits from $20 to $25 a week for a year with $5 additional for each dependent up to a maximum of three.
- A $90 monthly subsistence for veterans studying under the GI Bill with $25 additional each month for each dependent up to a maximum of three, and lifting the 25-year age limit on eligibility.
- Elimination of present price limits on artificial limbs so that the Veterans Administration can supply the best possible devices.
- Other changes in the housing provision to include extension of the amortization period for payment of loans from 20 to 32 years, lower interest rates, and extension of the time of application for loan from two years after discharge to ten years after discharge of all draftees.

Home Loans

The witness immediately preceding Bernstein, Dave E. Saterfield Jr., of the Life Assurance Assn. of America, like the CIO representative, called for the extension of time during which a veteran can apply for a home loan. Both referred to the same statement by Benard Baruch in which he asked that loans be administered by the Federal Housing Administration.

Advocating boosting veterans' unemployment compensation payments, CIO Veterans' Committee spokesman Bernstein said that civilian skilled workers and soldiers were frequently employed side by side at U. S. military installations, and in many instances the civilian received a great deal more than his partner in uniform.

He asked the committee to suppose that come demobilization the soldier and the worker were discharged at the same time and were unable to find work.

"It would be unfair," the witness said, "for the veteran to draw less unemployment compensation than the civilian. The former serviceman's allowance ought to be increased.

Artificial Limbs

Turning to the inadequacy of artificial limbs now supplied by the Veterans Administration, Bernstein argued: "If the average price of the most desirable device is twice that now allowed by the VA, the total cost of furnishing one and a spare to each disabled veteran will be less than the cost of fighting the war for one or two hours."

Bernstein also advocated the extension of educational facilities for veterans on all levels. He asked for the immediate creation "within the states and the cities of educational commissions representing educators, labor and the public, to make plans for the utilization of vocational schools . . . "

Aid Disabled Vets

Besides improvement of the GI Bill of Rights, the CIO Veterans Committee also urged the passage of HR 1533, a bill to aid wounded veterans in getting jobs. The bill provides that the Veterans Administration repay benefits paid to veterans injured in industrial accidents. Many employers discriminate against hiring disabled vets, the Committee charged, because they fear they will incur double liability in unemployment compensation cases.

Mr. Clinton S. Golden
Chairman of the C.I.O. Veterans's Committee
New York, N.Y.
Dear Mr. Golden:

We, the members of hut 708 of the 42d Station Hospital stationed in the Aleutians, wish at this time to commend you on its very fine work.

Your recent sugestion to the War Department that demobilization is too slow and that men should have their discharges mailed to them meets with our hearty approval.

Thanking you again for your fine work, we remain,

Respectfully yours,

Raymond J. Pinion
James E. Mynhan
Wayne E. Brent
Leslie A. Wastie
John G. Wilson
Brownlow Vines
Henry Malis
Herbert Dill
Floyd Lemke
George H. Cardwell
Joseph Levine
Edgar D. Keys

THIS LETTER FROM THE ALEUTIANS SHOWS THAT THE PROPOSAL MADE TO THE ARMY BY CLINTON S. GOLDEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CIO VETERANS COMMITTEE, TO SPEEDING DISCHARGES IS MEETING WITH ENTHUSIASTIC APPROVAL FROM THE SERVICEMEN THEMSELVES. GOLDEN SAID THAT DISCHARGES WOULD BE SPEEDED IF SOLDIERS WERE PROCESSED FOR DISCHARGE AT THEIR BASES AND SENT HOME ON TERMINAL LEAVE WHILE THE PAPER WORK WAS BEING COMPLETED, THUS ELIMINATING SEPARATION CENTERS WHICH GOLDEN DESCRIBED AS "THE BOTTLENECK."

Veterans Give Support To Local 207 Strikers

By Irene Agnes Gallagher, Reporter

Brooklyn, N.Y.—Local 207 strikers at the Hills Bros. Co. received a surprised visit recently from Frank Schiavone and Frank Keenan, two Union members just discharged from the armed forces.

Stopping around at the strike headquarters to add their support to the strike, and, incidentally, to show off their new civilian clothes, the two ex-servicemen were soon surrounded by their admiring Union brothers and sisters who gave them a hearty "welcome home."

Schiavone, until his discharge on September 22, served four years as a Staff Sergeant in the Army. The twice-wounded veteran spent [illegible] years overseas, where he took [part] in the invasion of France and [Belgium] action in Belgium and Germany.

Keenan, an ex-Seaman 1st C[lass] also displayed his discharge pa[pers] to his former co-workers and [re]ceived their congratulations. [He] served with the Navy for [four] years, during which time he sa[iled] to France, England, Scotland [and] the Aleutians. Soon after his [re]turn to the States on October [1] he received his discharge from the Navy.

Both Schiavone and Keenan [plan] to return to work at the Hills Bros. plant as soon as the strike is [settled].

THE Story of Labor
THE EARLY FORTIES SAW THE RISE OF THE "FACTORY" SYSTEM IN AMERICA. IN NEW ENGLAND, POWER LOOMS MADE PROFITABLE COTTON FACTORIES EMPLOYING 1500 WORKERS. IN PITTSBURGH, IRON MILLS STARTED. LYNN BECAME THE CENTER OF THE SHOE INDUSTRY. THE NEEDLE TRADE USED THOUSANDS IN NEW YORK. MODERN "BIG BUSINESS" BEGAN AND WITH IT THE POWER TO EXPLOIT THE WORKERS.
ENGLISH, IRISH AND GERMAN IMMIGRANTS, OPRESSED AND STARVING AT HOME, SOUGHT FREEDOM AND A DECENT LIFE IN AMERICA. THE EMPLOYERS SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET ONE WORKER AGAINST ANOTHER. NATIVE AGAINST FOREIGNER, RELIGION AGAINST RELIGION. BY KEEPING THEM APART, AND IN COMPETITION, THE FACTORY OWNERS WERE ABLE TO CUT WAGES AND DESTROY UNIONS....
JOE WORKER
BOSTON EMPLOYERS MET THE IMMIGRANTS AT THE BOAT...
I GOT FINE JOBS FOR YOU IRISH LADS AND LASSIES. $5 A WEEK FOR LADS! $250 FOR THE LASSIES!
AIN'T THAT SMALL WAGES, SIR?
IF YOU DON'T TAKE IT, THERE'S A GERMAN CROWD COMING IN'LL GRAB IT!
UNLUCKILY THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO JOE WORKER. NATIVE WORKERS RIOTED AGAINST IRISH, PROTESTANTS CRIED OUT ON CATHOLICS... RESULT, ALL WORKERS LIVED IN SLUMS...
MY HUSBAND'S DYING; MY CHILD'S HUNGRY! ALL BECAUSE THE MILLS PAY STARVATION WAGES!
THEY THOUGHT THEY'D FIND LIFE HERE; INSTEAD THEY FOUND PERSECUTION AND DEATH!
IN THE FACTORIES, THE EMPLOYERS RAISED A DIFFERENT TUNE
STARTING TODAY, YOUR SALARIES ARE CUT TO $5. A WEEK!
WE'LL STRIKE!
STRIKE AWAY! JUST HIRED A BATCH O' HUSKY IRISH. OF COURSE, THEY'RE FURRINER CATHOLICS; BUT THEY'LL WORK FOR US!
HEAR THAT? ARE WE GONNA LET A LOTTA PAPISTS TAKE OUR JOBS AWAY? LET'S SEND 'EM BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM!
AIN'T NOTHING LIKE STIRRING UP HATES TO MAKE 'EM QUIT YELPING ABOUT PAY!
LET'S GET THE IRISH TO JOIN THE UNION, THEN WE'LL ALL GET BETTER PAY AND HOURS
UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICIANS, SEEKING SCAPEGOATS, FORMED THE KNOW-NOTHING PARTY, WITH A PLATFORM OF BIGOTRY AND HATE AGAINST FOREIGNERS, CATHOLICS AND JEWS.
YOU SWEAR TO HATE ALL FOREIGNERS, CATHOLICS, JEWS; TO DRIVE THEM BACK ACROSS THE SEA?
I SO SWEAR! AMERICA FOR AMERICANS!
YEAH! THEM FOREIGNERS TOOK OUR JOBS AWAY!
KILL THE IRISH! THEY'RE PLOTTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT!
DOWN WITH THE CATHOLICS!
YOU FOOL! HAVEN'T YOU READ THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS?